

Mountaineer volleyball picks up pair of weekend road wins

Observer staff

The 13th-ranked Eastern Oregon volleyball team picked up two more victories in Cascade Collegiate Conference play over the weekend, earning road wins over Northwest Friday, 27-25, 25-23, 25-23, and over Evergreen Saturday, 28-26, 20-25, 25-21, 25-20.

MOUNTAINEERS SWEEP EAGLES

Taylor Tibbetts and Megan Bunn both had 12 kills and Eastern eked out three close sets to sweep the Eagles. Bunn also had 21 digs and had the kill to end the match in the third set.

Hailee Ackerman added 11 kills

for EOU. Kiley McMurtrey led the defense with 22 digs. Madison Pilon had 15 assists and 12 digs, and Sarah Carpenter had 10 assists. Carpenter also had an ace to end the first set. Cambree Scott had a team high three block assists, and teamed with Holli Mullins on a block to end Set 2.

EOU GETS PAST GEODUCKS

Ackerman and Bunn both had 14 kills as EOU fought off Evergreen after splitting the first two sets.

EOU dominated at the net with 14 blocks. Jet Taylor had six block assists and a solo block for EOU, and Scott had seven block assists. Bunn added five block assists.

EOU ROUNDUP

Bunn also had a team-high 24 digs for the Mountaineers. McMurtrey added 18 digs and Aspen Christiansen had 14.

Tibbetts added 11 kills and four block assists in the win. Pilon had 25 assists and Carpenter added 14.

EOU (19-5 overall, 14-2 CCC) returns home Friday to face Corban.

EOU women, men both place fifth in Rocklin

Both the Eastern Oregon men's and women's cross country teams finished in fifth place at the William Jessup Warrior Invitational Satur-

day in Rocklin, California.

The women's team finished with 142 points in the meet, and were led by Michelle Herbes, who came in 13th in the 5K race in a time of 18:22.5. Katie Jo Gebhardt, the second Mountaineer across the line, finished in 32nd place in 18:59. The rest of Eastern's top five were just 15 seconds apart. Megan Boals was 39th in 19:14.2, Faith Homer took 42nd in 19:19.8, and Amanda Welch placed 44th in 19:29.4.

Oregon Tech won the women's race with 24 points. Southern Oregon was second with 44.

On the men's side EOU finished

with 117 points in the 8K race.

Southern Oregon was the winner with 47 points, and College of Idaho was second with 54.

Hunter Kratz paced Eastern in 16th with a time of 25:22.1, just ahead of teammate Dustin Zimmerly, who was 18th in 25:23. Lane Inwards followed in 23rd in a time of 25:29.

Thomas Morrell III was 27th in 25:38.6, and Robie Swanson rounded out Eastern's top five in 42nd in 26:11.6.

Both teams return to action Nov. 3 for the Cascade Collegiate Conference championships in Issaquah, Washington.

PLAYOFFS

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said has grown of late is Solorio. The junior college transfer put Eastern Oregon on the board in the 41st minute, then scored the winner in the 83rd minute after Corban's Alex Segovia had scored the equalizer early in the second half.

"I would say Carlos a month ago wouldn't have made those good runs, good passes and nice goals," Mills said. "He's matured so much over the last couple of weeks and grown. He's been killing it."

The coach also said his team showed it wasn't going to back down from the Warriors.

"They respected Corban because they are a really good team, but they weren't scared of Corban, and that made me really happy to see."

The positive outcome also due in large part to a solid night by Wright. The senior made a couple difficult leaping saves in the first half when the game was still scoreless, then withstood Corban's attack in the second half.

"It's always the same. I don't care who we're playing. I try to stay on my feet, wait until the last second and then react to what's coming at me," Wright said.

Mills said Wright's composure was what stood out Friday.

"Out of all the games, he's always been good, (but) he was consistent tonight," Mills said. "He was composed tonight, and that helped. Against a team like Corban you gotta bring it all."

Solorio added that Wright "did his job." "Heck of a player. Heck of a man," he said. "Before warmups he was concentrated, he was focused. He knew what had to be done. He knew he was the last line of defense."

MOUNTAINEERS RUN STREAK TO FOUR WITH WIN OVER BEACONS

Solorio and Jorge Chavez both scored goals in the first half and the Mountaineers ran their winning streak to four matches with a 2-1 win over Northwest Christian Sunday.

Chavez scored on a penalty kick in the seventh minute for an early lead, and Solorio scored off a pass from Chavez to make it 2-0 in the 32nd minute. Alex Abalan scored for NCU just 33 seconds later, but EOU made the advantage hold up.

Wright recorded two saves in the win.

The Mountaineers (9-3-4 overall, 7-2-3 CCC) finish the regular season Sunday when they host Walla Walla.

ROUT

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tone for the afternoon. Both Van Wyck and Cranford finished with 1.5 sacks, Zach Lacey had a sack, and five others players were credited with half a sack as the Mountaineers harassed Tech QB Jet Campbell all afternoon.

"It's what they practice for," Camp said. "I think they practice against the best offensive line in the conference. They challenge our guys each and every day. When they do that against a group like (Montana Tech) who wants to run the ball, but knew they were going to have to throw the ball, they're relentless."

Tech was just as strong on defense early, collecting two sacks on the opening drive and grabbing an interception to set up a short field goal for a 3-0 first-quarter lead.

Eastern, in fact, didn't get a first down until its fifth possession. That possession, though, finally broke the ice on the offense with Brenden Kelly's 11-yard TD reception early in the second quarter.

"It just comes down to ex-

ecution," said wide receiver T.J. Hancock, who had a team-high five catches on the day. "We know we have the guys to do it. We put a couple passes together and it led to points, which is good."

Eastern extended its lead to 14-3 when Victor Dias, known more for his bruising running style, took a screen pass, made a cut and sprinted 74 yards just before the half.

EOU put the pedal down in the third quarter.

A strip-sack recovered by Chris Kindle set EOU up at the Montana Tech 13, and Dias scored from five yards out for a 21-3 lead.

Then EOU got a bit tricky, recovering a pooch kickoff at the Tech 35.

"I get it up there, and pretty much hope and pray for a good bounce, which it ended up doing," kicker Nathan Harden said, noting EOU pulled off the same play a week ago in its win at Southern Oregon. "Anytime it bounces in favor for us is a good day."

Dias turned the extra possession into points with a seven-yard reception for a 28-3 lead less than three

minutes into the third quarter.

"We came out at half-time (and) started clicking offensively," lineman Colten Aleferas said. "Our defense was balling out the entire game."

Quinn finished with 295 yards on 22-of-40 passing. Although he had two interceptions, he connected with nine different receivers.

Dias posted team bests of 82 yards rushing and 81 yards receiving.

"Vic has gotten better, and he's worked hard at it. He has worked himself into being an every-down back," Camp said. "That's impressive, but that's not surprising with Vic. That's the kind of person he is, and that's the kind of person we want carrying the ball."

Campbell was 22-for-40 for 244 yards with a touchdown and a pick for Tech. Jed Fike, who had 149 yards rushing in the previous matchup, had 94 yards Saturday.

EOU (5-2 overall, 5-2 Frontier) travels to College of Idaho Saturday to face a Coyotes' team that is on a three-game winning streak, most recently with a 45-34 win over Southern Oregon.

REPEAT

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Gregus netted her 10th goal in the 66th minute to ice the contest. Val Gaffney, who played the first half in goal, registered saves on

NCU's only two shots on goal.

Katie Hastings had 14 saves to keep the Beacons in the match.


The Mountaineers (13-1-2 overall, 9-1-2 CCC) are off until Nov. 7 when they begin

the CCC tournament in Springfield.

"We've peaked at the right time," Nicol said. "We've all come together, we've stayed close as a team all throughout the season, and we're ready to go into the playoffs."

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